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### **National Business Women's Week slated for October 21-25**

The Missouri Women's Council announces that the week of October 21-25 is National Business Women's Week.

Since its creation in 1928, National Business Women's Week has been sponsored by Business and Professional Women/USA for the purpose of recognizing and honoring the achievements of working women throughout history. This year marks the 74<sup>th</sup> commemoration of this annual event, which always begins on Monday of the third full business week in October.

The concept of National Business Women's Week originated from Emma Dot Partridge, executive secretary of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs from 1924 – 1927. Its first annual observance was held April 15 – 22, 1928. From this early effort, National Business Women's Week has grown to be a nationwide salute to all working women.

Each U.S. President since Herbert Hoover has opened the first day of National Business Women's Week with a letter recognizing the contributions and achievements of working women. The celebration of National Business Women's Week has helped to promote leadership roles for women and to increase opportunities for their advancement both professionally and personally.

Cheryl Grazier, executive director of the Women's Council, cited a recent study by the Center for Women's Business Research which shows that there are currently an estimated 6.2 million majority-owned, privately held women-owned firms in the United States, accounting for 28% of all privately held firms in the country.

In Missouri, there are an estimated 119,961 majority-owned, privately held women-owned firms, accounting for 29% of all privately held firms in the state. In addition, women constitute approximately 46% of the workforce as of the year 2000.

“Women continue to make an increasingly stronger impact on the workplace and the economy, and they need to be encouraged to continue advancing and becoming more economically and fiscally minded,” said Grazier.

For more information, contact the Missouri Women's Council toll-free at 1-877-426-9284 or locally at 573-751-0810. Information is also available on the Women's Council web site at

[www.womenscouncil.org](http://www.womenscouncil.org)